

NAXOS

FOERSTER: Symphony No. 4, 'Easter Eve'

8.557776

By the time of his death, at the age of 91, Foerster had become the grand old man of Czech music. Written under the spell of Bruckner and Mahler, the *Symphony No. 4* is widely regarded as his masterpiece. This deeply religious work begins with a Mahlerian march, followed by a bucolic scherzo that would be at home among Dvořák's *Slavonic Dances*. The lovely slow movement provides yet more evidence of Foerster's superb ear for orchestral colour while the finale, the longest and most complex of the four movements, builds inexorably to a majestic climax that has been likened to approaching the gates of heaven.

Josef Bohuslav  
**FOERSTER**  
(1859–1951)

**Symphony No. 4, 'Easter Eve'**  
**Festive Overture • Meine Jugend**

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|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | <b>Festive Overture, Op. 70 *</b>                        | <b>9:26</b>  |
| 2 | <b>Meine Jugend (My Youth), Symphonic Poem, Op. 44 *</b> | <b>15:50</b> |
|   | <b>Symphony No. 4 in C minor, Op. 54, 'Easter Eve'</b>   | <b>47:08</b> |
| 3 | <b>I. Molto sostenuto</b>                                | <b>12:08</b> |
| 4 | <b>II. Allegro deciso</b>                                | <b>10:21</b> |
| 5 | <b>III. Andante sostenuto</b>                            | <b>8:47</b>  |
| 6 | <b>IV. Lento lugubre – Allegro moderato</b>              | <b>15:53</b> |

\* World première recordings

**Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra**  
**Lance Friedel**

Recorded at Slovak Radio (Bratislava), 8–14 September 2004

Producer: Emil Niznansky • Sound Engineer: Hubert Geschwandtner • Booklet notes: Lance Friedel  
Editions: Barenreiter Praha (Festive Overture); Universal Edition, Vienna (Meine Jugend, Symphony No. 4)  
Cover image: Portrait of Josef Bohuslav Foerster by his brother Viktor Foerster (Lebrecht Music & Arts)



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Playing Time  
72:33



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